

BOOK REVIEW

GUY GUSMAN and LILLIAN GUSMAN. 2006, **The Genus *Arisaema*, a Monograph for Botanists and Nature Lovers, Second Revised and Enlarged Edition**. (ISBN 3-906166-37-6. Publisher: ARG Gantner Verlag Kömmaditgellschaft FL 9491 Ruggell. Distributor: Koeltz Scientific Books, POB 1360, D-61453 Königstein/Germany. (**Orders:** Timber Press Inc, 133S.W.Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A.; www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). US\$79.95 and C\$109.95. 474 pp., 400 +color photographs, 29 figures, and 18 tables, 6 3/8" × 9 1/2".

This Second Edition includes more than ten new species described since the First Edition was published, many new photographs, geographical distribution of species by country, revised character tables for key species, recent developments in *Arisaema* taxonomy, types of accepted taxa and updated bibliographical references.

"The genus *Arisaema* consists of about 200 species, subspecies and varieties whose extraordinarily wide range extends from Central and East Africa towards Southeast Asia, via Yemen, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the whole Himalayan range, India, China, Korea, Japan and Siberia and eventually to North America. *Arisaema* is the third largest of the 105 genera that make up the *Araceae* (Mayo, Bogner & Boyce), 1997), a remarkable family of monocotyledons that contains some of the most extraordinary plants in the world." (pg. 12)

This, a second, revised and enlarged edition, is a comprehensive book on the genus, written by two collectors and growers, who are themselves scientists. Commonly called Cobra-Lilies, most do not resemble a snake and the genus is unrelated to lilies. The initial chapters include morphology, use in chemistry and medicine, occurrence in the wild and in cultivation, propagation and systematics. Most of the book is taken up in the description of species by each of the 15 sections, which includes photographs, drawings, tables, etc. Chapters on doubtful species, invalid names and then hybrids follows. The final three chapters include a glossary, bibliography, and an index to species names.

The book is a must have for botanists, horticulturalists, plant collectors, gardeners, growers, and anyone interested in the fascinating genus, *Arisaema*.—David Leedy, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.